

Remarks

Claims 1-18 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barasade et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0169670, and Gharachorloo et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,738,868. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejection is not conceded.

The present application has a filing date of December 11, 2000. Barasade has an earliest U.S. priority date of March 30, 2001, based on U.S. Patent Provisional Application No. 60/279,707. The filing date for the present application pre-dates the earliest priority date for Barasade. Therefore, it is respectfully suggested that Barasade is not prior art with respect to the present application.

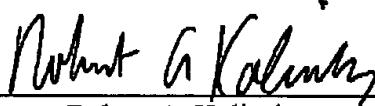
Removal of Barasade from consideration as prior art is respectfully requested. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-18 are requested.

The remarks set forth above make certain arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claims. The applicant respectfully notes that there may be other reasons that the pending claims are patentably distinct over the cited references and reserves the right to raise any such reason or argument in the future.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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